

the King of the Belgians, when his accurate diagnosis and successful operation brought him professional renown. Along with a large practice and his duties at University College, Sir Henry Thompson found time to develop his marked talent for art and literature. He studied painting under Elmore and Alma-Tadema, and frequently his pictures were exhibited at the Academy or the Paris Salon. He wrote several novels, the first, *Charley Kingston's Aunt*, had no fewer than fifteen editions. His professional writings were numerous, and mention may be made of some which are of general interest. His article in the *Quarterly* thirty years ago advocating Cremation led to its adoption in England; and Sir Henry Thompson was President of the Cremation Society till his death. His books *On Food and Feeding* and *Diet in Relation to Age and Activity* went through many editions. At the age of eighty he became an enthusiastic automobilist, and in 1902 wrote a small book on the motor car.

Sir Henry Thompson's interest in astronomy led him to build an observatory at his country house at Molesey. Messrs. Cooke erected for him in 1887 an equatorial with a visual object glass of 12 inches and a photographic object glass of 8 inches aperture. With a grating spectroscope attached to this equatorial he and his assistant, Mr. A. Taylor, made observations of widened lines and other solar phenomena. Some observations of bright line spectra and spectra of nebulae made at the Observatory were communicated to the Society by Mr. Taylor in January 1889. In 1891 Sir Henry Thompson presented to the Royal Observatory his 8-inch photographic telescope, which has since been in regular use for photographs of the Sun, and has on several occasions been used in eclipse expeditions as a coronagraph. In 1896 he made to the Royal Observatory the munificent gift of a large equatorial with a 26-inch photographic refractor at one end of the declination axis and a 30-inch reflector at the other. He was elected a Fellow of the Society on the 11th of May 1888.

Sir Henry Thompson married in 1851 Miss Kate Loder, the distinguished pianist. He leaves one son and two daughters.

THEODOR ALEXANDROVITCH BREDICHIN was born in 1831 at Nikolaieff, Russia, and was educated at Odessa and the University of Moscow. In 1857 he was appointed to the staff of the Moscow Observatory, and almost at once commenced the series of investigations, by which he will be chiefly remembered, on the dynamical theory of cometary appendages. His earliest papers on the subject were written in Russian, and it was from the short accounts of the work which he from time to time contributed to the *Astronomische Nachrichten* that it first became generally known to astronomers outside his own country. In 1865 he was promoted to the directorate of the Observatory, and from 1875 to 1890 a number of extensive memoirs appeared in the *Annales de l'Observatoire de Moscou*, in which the theory was fully developed. In the latter year he became Director of

the Pulkowa Observatory, in succession to Otto Struve—a position from which he retired in a few years—and a member of the St. Petersburg Academy. Most of his subsequent papers have been published in the *Bulletin* of the Academy. A systematic exposition of Bredichin's work on comets has been written by R. Jaegermann. Many of his other papers refer to meteors, meteor streams, and stationary radiants. In 1884 he was elected an Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society.

His death occurred, after a short illness, on the 14th of May 1904.

PAUL HENRY was born at Nancy on the 21st of August 1848, and died at Paris on the 4th of January 1905. His younger brother Prosper, in collaboration with whom all his astronomical work was done, died on the 25th of July 1903. In the Report of the Council for last year an account is given of the work of the brothers Henry, and it was stated that it was not possible to separate the work of Prosper Henry from that of his brother Paul. A more detailed notice of the work of MM. Henry will be found in that report. Appointed Assistant Astronomers at the Paris Observatory in 1868, they set themselves to complete Chacornac's Charts of the Ecliptic. As they approached the Milky Way the large number of stars made visual observation almost impossible, and they tried photography. The results they obtained, presented by Admiral Mouchez to the Academy in August 1884, were so satisfactory that they commenced the construction of a 12·8-inch photographic object-glass. This realised all their expectations, and they found that a field of 3° in diameter was sharply covered, and that with an hour's exposure stars of the 14th and 15th magnitudes were shown. In the course of a few years the international photographic chart of the heavens was commenced with instruments of the pattern first constructed by MM. Henry.

M. Paul Henry was a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour and Officer of Public Instruction. He was elected an Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society on the 8th of November 1899.